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Imperial Ordinance on the Organization of the Cabinet

Article I. The Cabinet is composed of various Ministers of State.

Article II. The Prime Minister stands at the head of the Ministers of State, reports affairs of State to the Sovereign, and in compliance with Imperial instructions, maintains the co-ordination of the various branches of the Administration.

Article III. The Prime Minister, should an occasion soon sufficiently important to demand such a course, has competence to suspend dispositions made or orders issued by the Administration, pending Imperial sanction.

Article IV. The Prime Minister can issue Cabinet Ordinances on the authority of his own or specially delegated upon him.

Article IV-2. The Prime Minister directs and supervises the Superintendent General of Metropolitan Police, Governor of Hokkaido and Provincial Governors in respect of the affairs in his charge. When their orders or dispositions are contrary to provisions enacted, harmful to the public interest or regarded as violating their competence, he can suspend or repeal such orders or dispositions.

Article V. The following matters shall be submitted for deliberation by the Cabinet Council:-

1. Drafts of laws, financial estimates, and settled accounts.
2. Treaties with foreign countries and all international questions of importance.
3. Imperial Ordinances relating to the organization of Government offices and the enforcement of regulations and laws.
4. Disputes between Ministries on their respective competence.
5. Petitions from the people, handed down from the Emperor or submitted by the Imperial Diet.
6. Expenditure outside of the budget.
7. Appointment of chokanin officials and of local Governors, as well as their promotions and removals.

In addition to the above, any important matters connected with

the affairs in charge of various Ministries and having relation to the higher administration, shall also be submitted for deliberation by the Cabinet Council.

Article VI. The Minister in charge can demand, according to his own opinion, the consideration of the Cabinet Council upon any matter whatsoever through the Prime Minister.

Article VII. Such matters as concern military secrets and military orders and are reported to the Emperor, unless referred to the Cabinet by the Emperor, shall be reported to the Prime Minister by the Minister of War and the Minister of the Navy.

Article VIII. Should the Prime Minister be prevented from discharging his functions, another Minister of State shall be temporarily ordered to take charge of his affairs in his behalf.

Article IX. Should any Minister of State be prevented from discharging his functions, another Minister of State shall concurrently hold his office temporarily or ordered to take charge of his affairs.

Article X. In addition to the Ministers of various Ministries, a person or persons may be caused by Imperial command to sit in the Cabinet as a Minister or Ministers of State.